



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FEDERAL JUDGE SENTENCES ELGIN MAN TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR
POSSESSION OF MORE THAN 5,000 CHILD PORNOGRAPHY IMAGES**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 44-year-old David Wayne Copple of Elgin, Texas, was sentenced this morning to 87 months in federal prison for possession and transportation of child pornography.

In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks, ordered Copple to be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

On February 20, 2004, Copple pled guilty to one count of possession of child pornography and one count of transportation of child pornography. By pleading guilty, Copple admitted that: 1) on April 15, 2003, he transmitted via the Internet child pornography; and, 2) on October 17, 2003, he was in possession of a computer hard drive and floppy discs which contained over 5,000 visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct that he downloaded from the Internet. On October 17, 2003, federal and state authorities executed a search warrant at the defendant's residence and seized a laptop computer and more than one dozen computer discs.

"Trading in child pornography is an evil crime and we will continue to aggressively prosecute those who victimize children," said United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

This case was investigated by special agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and investigators with Texas Attorney General's Cyber Crimes Unit. Special Assistant United States Attorney Grant Sparks prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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